

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8194
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3094

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IS, LE
SUBJ: REPORTED ISRAELI VIEWS ON SOUTH LEBANON

1. AUSTRALIAN THIRD SECRETARY JOHN BRIGHT RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TDY TO ISRAEL, WHERE HE MET ON MAY 24 WITH ODED ERAN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S MIDDLE EAST BUREAU. ACCORDING TO BRIGHT, ERAN SAID THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE ISRAELIS WOULD WELCOME SYRIAN ARMY DEPLOYMENT SOUTH TO THE NORTH BANK OF THE LITANI. (A MR. MAROME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S RESEARCH AND PLANNING BUREAU TOLD BRIGHT THE SAME THING.)

B. THE GOI WANTED THE LEBANESE ARMY TO DEPLOY SOUTH, BUT REALIZED THAT THIS MIGHT NOT BE FEASIBLE FROM LEBANON'S LEBANON'S POINT OF VIEW. SA'AD HADDAD SHOULD BE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE GOL AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEBANESE
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ARMY IN SOUTH LEBANON.

C. ISRAEL WOULD WITHDRAW ITS FORCES SO THAT IT HAD AS MANY MEN IN SOUTH LEBANON AFTER JUNE 13 AS IT HAD THERE BEFORE THE MARCH OPERATION INTO LEBANON. (COMMENT: THIS WOULD NOT BE "TOTAL" WITHDRAWAL.)

D. THE GOI HAD MADE NO DECISION ON WHAT TO DO IF THE PALESTINIANS RETURNED TO SOUTH LEBANON AFTER JUNE 13. IN ERAN'S PERSONAL VIEW, THE ISRAELIS WOULD GO BACK IN.

2. BRIGHT ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN ISRAEL BELIEVED THAT THE ISRAELIS WOULD WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH LEBANON IN THE FULL EXPECTATION AND HOPE THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD RETURN TO THE AREA. THE ISRAELIS COULD THUS POINT TO SOUTH LEBANON AND SAY THE SITUATION THERE JUSTIFIED THEIR REMAINING IN OTHER OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
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